Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 8

A few areas received scattered showers. However, corn and soybeans continue to deteriorate in most areas of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Driest soils continue to be in the northern and southern portions of the state. Pastures are virtually dried up on many farms. Feeding of hay is necessary on some livestock farms. Major activities during the week included baling hay, selling grain, mowing roads and pastures, attending fairs and care of livestock.

CORN

Corn condition declined from last week with 30 percent of the crop rated good to excellent compared with 68 percent at this time last year. Virtually all of the corn crop has **silked** compared with 91 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Fifty-six percent of the corn crop has reached the **dough** stage compared with 35 percent last year and 29 percent for the average. Thirteen percent of the corn acreage is in the **dent** stage. By region, 57 percent of the corn acreage is in the dough stage in the north, 54 percent in the central and 55 percent in the south.

SOYBEANS

Soybean **conditio n** declined from last week and is rated 34 percent good to excellent compared with 69 percent last year. Ninety-eight percent of the soybean acreage is **blooming** compared with 86 percent last year and the 5-year average of 84 percent. Seventy-seven percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 51 percent last year and 46 percent for average. By region, 73 percent of the soybean acreage is setting pods in the north, 85 percent in the central and 64 percent in the south.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition declined from last week and was rated 11 percent good, 37 percent fair, 31 percent poor and 21 percent very poor. Third cutting of **alfalfa** hay is 53 percent complete compared with 24 percent last year. Tobacco harvest is underway.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 6.8 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork** . **Topsoil moisture** was rated 45 percent very short, 44 percent short and 11 percent adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 37 percent very short, 47 percent short and 16 percent adequate.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Silking	100	98	91	87
Corn in Dough	56	33	35	29
Corn Dent	13	NA	0	1
Soybeans Blooming	98	95	86	84
Soybeans Podding	77	53	51	46
Alfalfa, Third Cutting	53	30	24	NA

CROP CONDITION

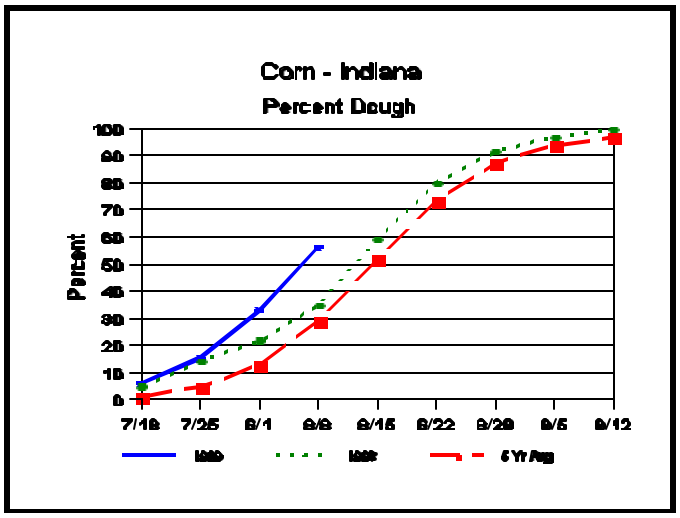
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Corn	9	20	41	26	4
Soybeans	6	15	45	30	4
Pasture	21	31	37	11	0

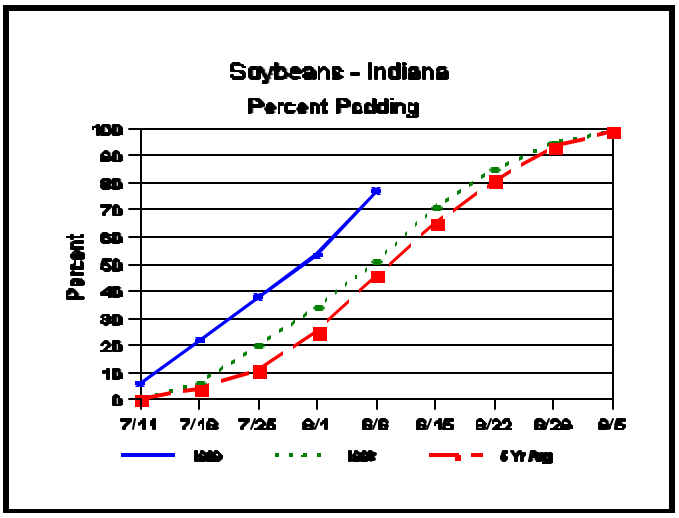
SOIL MOISTURE

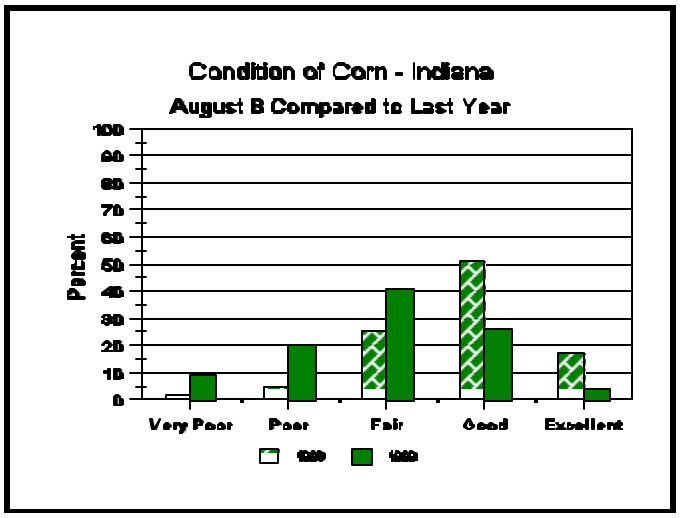
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	45	40	0
Short	44	39	6
Adequate	11	21	60
Surplus	0	0	34
Subsoil			
Very Short	37	32	0
Short	47	42	8
Adequate	16	26	68
Surplus	0	0	24

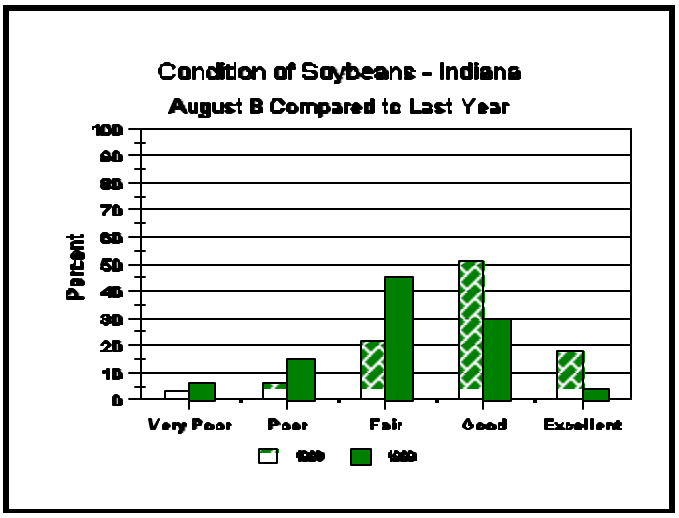
--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress









Drought Stress and Corn Silage Decisions

Corn in parts of Indiana continues to struggle with the effects of prolonged dry weather, compounded with the effects of the recent heat wave. Some corn growers are beginning to wonder whether marketing their corn as silage through their cattle would be more profitable than harvesting the stressed fields for the grain. Others who always intended to make silage now wonder whether they should be concerned with high nitrate levels in the corn plants. Some factors need to be considered during the decision-making process, as well as after the decision is made to make silage.

Potential Grain Yield

Producers should not be too hasty in writing off a drought-stressed field as a loss in terms of its grain yield potential. As witnessed during the Great Droughts of '88 and '91, corn has an uncanny ability to produce grain under the worst of conditions. Be sure to sample worrisome fields thoroughly in order to estimate grain yield before deciding to harvest it as silage.

Government Program and/or Crop Insurance Considerations

Before harvesting the crop for either silage or grain, be sure to check with your county USDA office and/or insurance agent for any red tape that needs to be handled regarding the effects of drought stress on the crop.

Value of Drought-Stressed Corn Silage

Drought-stressed corn can be salvaged as silage with reducing gain in the feedlot. Value of the drought-stressed silage is better than expected because much of the carbohydrate that would have gone into the grain is stored instead in the stalk and leaves. Protein levels in drought-stressed corn silage may actually be greater than in normal silage.

Harvesting For Green Chop

If you are considering green chopping the corn to feed directly to animals, be sure to note the harvest restrictions for any pesticides that have been applied

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Weather Data

Week ending Sunday August 8, 1999

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 1999 thru August 8, 1999				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest(1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	86	54	71	-2	0.08	2		15.86	-1.14	50	2180	+309
Wanatah	87	47	67	-5	0.04	2	81	16.86	+0.30	51	1885	+96
Wheatfield	87	54	71	-1	0.16	1		21.11	+4.94	44	2218	+379
Winamac	85	53	71	-1	1.59	2		16.60	+0.38	41	2223	+320
North Central(2)												
Logansport	87	55	71	-2	0.41	2		16.15	+0.49	53	2248	+300
Plymouth	85	56	71	-3	0.41	3		18.26	+1.41	53	2189	+203
South_Bend	87	56	72	+0	0.12	2		13.69	-2.19	42	2283	+426
Young_America	M I S S I N G											
Northeast(3)												
Bluffton	89	55	73	+0	0.15	1	81	11.68	-4.13	43	2284	+288
Fort_Wayne	88	54	72	-1	0.34	1		12.67	-2.07	46	2251	+307
West Central(4)												
Crawfordsville	88	50	71	-4	0.41	2	77	13.50	-4.24	51	2108	+10
Perrysville	87	53	71	-3	0.06	1	84	14.87	-2.81	48	2281	+224
Terre_Haute_Ag	92	58	76	+2	0.00	0	80	15.81	-2.07	51	2567	+375
W_Lafayette_6NW	87	53	72	-2	0.26	1	84	16.97	+0.67	48	2295	+350
Central(5)												
Castleton	89	58	74	-2	0.11	2		15.11	-2.29	58	2373	+219
Greenfield	89	56	74	+0	0.19	2		12.43	-5.98	53	2357	+280
Indianapolis_AP	89	58	74	-1	0.18	2		13.83	-2.88	51	2500	+328
Indianapolis_SE	88	54	73	-2	0.31	2		13.27	-4.13	56	2294	+140
Tipton_Ag	86	53	71	-2	0.21	2	74	12.93	-3.61	45	2105	+217
East Central(6)												
Farmland	88	51	71	-2	0.33	2	73	15.42	-0.79	53	2217	+378
New_Castle	86	53	70	-4	0.34	2		14.86	-2.95	53	2032	+152
Southwest(7)												
Dubois_Ag	92	57	75	+0	0.05	1	85	17.42	-1.76	47	2472	+271
Evansville	91	59	76	-3	0.60	1		18.58	+1.38	49	2674	+137
Freelandville	89	60	74	-2	0.34	1		20.40	+2.54	46	2466	+200
Shoals	90	58	73	-2	0.10	1		16.65	-2.71	42	2365	+182
Vincennes_5NE	89	59	75	-2	0.36	1	83	19.42	+1.56	61	2550	+284
South Central(8)												
Bloomington	91	59	75	-1	0.29	1		14.84	-3.25	44	2499	+281
Tell_City	93	64	78	+2	0.02	1		15.77	-3.66	43	2741	+328
Southeast(9)												
Butlerville	91	55	74	-2	0.28	1	83	15.32	-2.42	56	2421	+170
Scottsburg	93	57	75	+0	0.15	1		13.46	-4.77	40	2565	+316

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

to the crop. This includes insecticides as well as herbicides. Check the pesticide label or consult your chemical supplier for details.

Drought-stressed corn with little or no grain produced on the cob may contain unusually high levels of nitrates in the stalk. Green-chop forage from severely stressed corn should be tested for the presence of nitrates before feeding to animals. Quantitative laboratory analyses can be performed at Purdue's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Call ADDL at 765/494-7440 for costs and other details for submitting samples. ADDL's Web site URL is http://www.addl.purdue.edu/. If nitrate levels in the green-chop forage are excessively high, then contact Kern Hendrix, Animal Science Department, 765/494-4832, Email: khendrix@ansc.purdue.edu, for guidelines in feeding such high nitrate forage.

Harvesting for Silage

If you decide to harvest drought-stressed corn for silage, the absolute first step is to determine the moisture content of the crop. For proper silage fermentation, the crop should not exceed 65 percent moisture. Stalks of plants with many or most of the leaves dead from stress can still contain considerable moisture levels. A quick and dirty way to determine whether moisture content is suitable is to hand-squeeze a representative sample collected from the forage chopper. If water drips from the sample as it is squeezed, the corn is still too wet for proper fermentation. Growers can also determine moisture content of corn silage with a microwave oven. See Extension publication ID-172, "Use of Microwave Drying to Determine Moisture Content in Forage", available from your local Purdue Cooperative Extension Service office. This same publication is available on the Web at http://www.agry.purdue.edu/agronomy/ext/forages/publications/ID-172.htm.

Nitrate content of corn harvested for silage should not have to be a worrisome consideration. Forty to sixty percent of nitrates present in the stalk material will be eliminated during the ensiling process. However, various nitrogen oxide gases are produced in the process that are highly toxic to humans and livestock. For about the first 4 weeks after ensiling, do not enter a silo without first running the blower for 15 to 30 minutes.

--Bob Nielsen, Purdue University

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